



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE
EDUCATION COMMAND
MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY
2076 SOUTH STREET
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-5068

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1524
DDCSC
7 March 2012

From: Dean, Command and Staff College
To: Students of the Command and Staff College Class of 2013

Subj: WELCOME ABOARD

Encl: (1) Command and Staff College Selected Book List
(2) International Officer Military Sponsor Form

1. Congratulations on your selection to attend resident Professional Military Education at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College (CSC). This opportunity speaks highly of your talents and professional record. Our faculty will build on your operational prowess and the continuing development of leadership skills informed by the College's diverse curriculum.
2. Our curriculum consists of four core courses — Warfighting, Operational Art, Culture and Interagency Operations (CIAO), and Leadership. These disciplines are supplemented by electives and other professionally enhancing experiences. These core courses are taught concurrently throughout the academic year and this dynamic approach will provide a meaningful and stimulating educational experience. For your information, the College's selected book list is included at enclosure (1).
3. CSC emphasizes professional military education over training; you are expected to think, write, and speak at the graduate level. Our goal is to help each of you expand your intellectual abilities so you can more proficiently engage in critical analysis and problem-solving as a mid-career officer or government professional. Those interested in earning a Master of Military Studies (MMS) degree will have the opportunity to apply for this optional program. For many, a decade of combat operations and multiple deployments have afforded you opportunities to witness first hand our nation's approach to national security. The MMS program is your chance to think critically about a particular topic, conduct research and write about it; and when suitable, publish the results of your efforts. A prerequisite for the MMS program is to have earned a regionally or nationally accredited undergraduate degree. An official transcript from your college/university must be sent to the Marine Corps University (MCU) Registrar as part of the application process. See the MCU website (www.mcu.usmc.mil) for submission instructions.
4. The College's curriculum is supported by the learning management system, Blackboard. We will use this technology to highlight the academic calendar, post academic lesson requirements and assigned readings, and to communicate with the faculty. **Before you arrive, a CSC Blackboard account will be established for you – note the requirement to send a personal e-mail account as noted in "Pre-reporting Action 1" on the MCU website.** After 1 June 2012, the College will post announcements

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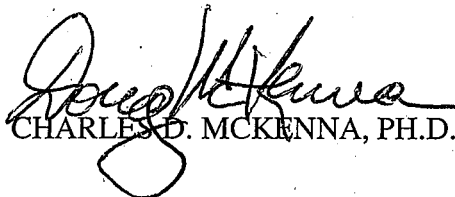
that highlight reporting instructions and information about the curriculum to prepare you for the start of the academic year.

5. An important mission for the college is the International Military Student (IMS) program. During the year, you will have the opportunity to interact with officers from a variety of partner nations. Please consider volunteering to sponsor one of these students. While being a sponsor requires you to make a formal commitment and dedicate some personal time to assist an international student and family in their transition, it is a rich and rewarding experience. We hope you will consider volunteering for this additional duty and contact us as soon as possible about your intentions. For those who are interested, a sponsor form for you to complete and return is provided at enclosure (2).

6. Review the MCU web site at www.mcu.usmc.mil. The MCU staff will populate "Welcome Aboard" requirements and information and forms for base housing, schools, vehicle registration, etc. College specific information will be posted on Blackboard.

7. Finally, while you will enjoy this opportunity, this is not a year off – we expect you to come prepared to work. Our faculty of active duty military and civilian PhDs will be your guides. You will have time to study, read, reflect upon and discuss your ideas and experiences with contemporaries from all U.S. armed forces, as well as international and interagency professionals. The schedule will also provide predictability and allow you to regain some balance in your lives, reconnecting with your families. We know you will look back on this opportunity as a rewarding and career enriching experience.

8. If you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to call the Administrative Office at 703-784-3330 or DSN 278-3330. Safe travels and we look forward to welcoming aboard you and your family in July.


CHARLES D. MCKENNA, PH.D.